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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 10

May 16, 1942

FLORIDA (April 11).--Community leaders, both men and women, named for practically all rural communities. Program developed assigning definite duties each leader. Periodical letters with suggestions will go to them.

Rural fire prevention and control project set up with extension forester as leader. Rural people will be encouraged to eliminate fire hazards and reduce fire losses, and to develop fire-fighting units in communities.

Washington County farmers devoting 45 percent of their acreage to long-staple cotton in response Government's call for more of longer staple.

In Orange County 37 cattlemen recently sold 37 head cattle for express purpose buying war savings bonds and stamps, using for such purpose all money received from sale.

INDIANA (May 11).--Hoosier Victory Garden program under way 92 counties, with more than 3,000 trained local leaders carrying garden information to clubs, farm bureaus, parent-teachers' associations, granges, and individual homes. One garden news story given State-wide publicity each week. Eight radio transcriptions prepared for Indiana stations. "Vegetables for Health," "Storage of Fruits and Vegetables," "Insects and Diseases of the Vegetable Garden," printed and distributed in large quantities. 24 leader meetings held 21 counties in April. Vanderburgh County has complete organization with all agencies and organizations cooperating, including the War Board, Soil Conservation Service, rural and city schools, vocational agriculture departments, farm bureau, Home Economics Association, industrial groups, WPA, civic clubs, and civilian defense groups. To date there are 4,000 entries in Vanderburgh County Victory Garden program.

First round of leader-training meetings in poultry production program completed, and leaders now working with community groups. Hatcherymen have been personally encouraged in their cooperation in program. 15,000 copies "Producing Profitable Pullets" distributed mainly through leaders. Emergency dairy program pushed through radio, circulars, and newspaper articles. Eight swine meetings held during April.

Of 10 counties reporting on farm-machinery repair program all indicate very definite increase in number machines repaired and increase of sales of repairs to farmers immediately following machinery repair schools.

4-H garden clubs expected to have 4 or 5 times normal enrollment, approximately 12,000 to 15,000 members.

MAINE (May 1).--Home demonstration agents and trained local leaders holding community meetings on - How milk helps build good health; Vegetables - How to choose and use them; Bread and cereal products - How to increase their contribution to health; Meat, eggs, fish, cheese, dried legumes, and nuts - How to make them pay their way. In cooperation OCD, Red Cross, State nutrition committee, leaders being trained in emergency feeding. Leaders will teach rural homemakers. Home demonstration agents assisted local Red Cross chapters in selecting women to take intensive course in "canteen" at University. People trained to serve as canteen instructors in urban areas. Summary of nutrition meetings past 3 months shows 503 with attendance over 11,000.

Campaign for increased milk production continued. County meetings on calf feeding and pasture improvement. Dairy farmers advised opportunity to secure CCC wheat for feeding. Artificial breeding associations encouraged.

In wood-lot management farmers urged practice sound cutting. Paper companies and purchasers pulpwood have cooperated. Farmers informed on current markets and forest problems through "Forestry Facts" issued by extension forester. In collaboration Northeastern Forest Experiment Station a bulletin on white pine cutting prepared.

Past 6 weeks State-wide 4-H Food-for-Victory drive conducted. Practically all schools visited; cooperation of superintendents, principals, school teachers and State Commissioner of Education has been ideal. Enrollment figures for May total 12,000, a new high. Special allotment defense funds to Extension by the Governor and Council for employment 9 special club agents for short periods. Will work in non-club agent counties.

MARYLAND (May 6).--Cooperating with other agencies in attempt to utilize all possible sources for alleviating acute farm labor shortage. Training course for high-school boys in Baltimore City proving distinct success. Applications from farmers for large percentage of 430 boys who took training, and all will be placed by time course closes May 16. Similar arrangements for training boys in Washington, D. C., high schools being worked out. Through county agents and county farm labor committees in all counties, State labor committee is accurately informed on situation and problems at all times.

Survey made of facilities for packing increased production canning crops. Cooperating with growers, packers, and all other agencies as to labor situation in producing and packing such crops.

Nutrition among most important educational programs. Home demonstration agent is chairman nutrition committee each county composed representatives all interested agencies and allied with State nutrition committee.

Machinery repair program extended to include sewing machines. Thirteen demonstrations resulted in reconditioning 190 such machines, a service valued at between \$600 and \$700.

Food-production projects have front rank among 4-H Club members. As typical example, one local leader is requiring each boy to have Victory Garden, and members also have pigs, cows, and chickens. They work with a girls' club in salvage collection. Driving a truck through their community, they have collected tons of scrap metal, waste paper, rubber, etc. These club boys and girls also maintain airplane spotting post.

MINNESOTA (May 1).--All counties being reached by garden program carried out on local leader plan. Reports show 3,435 leaders attending leadership schools; 1,402 garden meetings conducted by leaders with attendance 31,767. Rural school garden program, under auspices State Department Education with Extension providing all materials, shows 2,453 schools presenting special garden lessons. Combined attendance at garden meetings sponsored by local leaders and by rural schools totaled 69,000. Garden and nutrition campaigns merged with new committee set up to handle summer phases gardening and nutrition such as insect control, canning, storage.

Work in consumer education includes publishing and distributing 50,000 copies "Best Buys in Fruits and Vegetables." Seven Twin City stations now carrying daily "best buys," and 2 metropolitan newspapers publishing Extension reports on "best buys" daily. Program designed to encourage housewives to avail themselves of market peaks of locally grown supplies and put to best possible use for immediate consumption, canning, preserving, and pickling.

Intensified program to be carried out for improving quality of wool. Sheep improvement demonstrations scheduled 60 counties. Folder on wool production in process of preparation will stress care of sheep to grow better wool, handling of wool in shearing, storage, and marketing to deliver best possible quality. Sheep-improvement days will also urge care of new lamb crop and adequate pasture to finish crop for market quickly. Series sheep-shearing schools for 4-H boys to be held in effort to meet growing shortage skilled labor in this line.

To discuss necessary construction and at same time discourage nonessential building, series 11 district conferences for lumber dealers arranged by Extension in cooperation Northwest Lumbermen's Association. County agents will attend conferences with dealers from their counties, to work out best possible plan for getting maximum of necessary building done with least strain on supplies. To overcome shortage of grain storage space, farmers will be furnished with Extension pamphlet giving full plans for 1000-bushel grain bin made entirely of lumber, much of it home sawed.

Pamphlet, "Cost of Tractor and Machine Use," summarizes machine situation and gives actual figures cost of operating. It is hoped such information will encourage cooperative ownership, custom work, and other plans which will spread the use of the limited number of farm machines.

Farm safety approached from two angles, the 4-H program placing stress on safety methods to conserve farm manpower and materials. During the next year, in cooperation with State Safety Council, a monthly illustrated newspaper feature stressing some phase of farm safety, particularly safety in handling farm machines, will be sent out through county agents.

NORTH DAKOTA (May 1).--Approximately 8,000 volunteer town and community garden committee members selected and serving as local sources Victory Garden information. Series district meetings scheduled for training county agents, Smith-Hughes teachers, AAA, SCS, and other USDA workers in preparation to meet problems garden management. Program under way for efficient utilization and preservation garden produce. Work on health and nutrition linked closely this program. Weekly news column to all newspapers of State on gardening. Leaflets on controlling garden insects and diseases in process publication.

Drive, in cooperation War Board, for 63 percent increase flax acreage reached peak in April. Most counties will meet or exceed acreage goals.

Hatcheries enrolled for improvement poultry and egg production. All hatcheries now selling chicks only from tested and approved flocks. Feeding formula adjustments for war conditions worked out and supplied producers. Extra emphasis continued on feeding dairy cows, raising dairy calves. Stress placed on management to avoid losses, increase production. State-wide releases of information to avoid losses wool clip. Growers encouraged market shearling skins to meet needs flying suits. Livestock sanitation program developed to reduce disease and parasite losses.

Refresher course organized to assist workers cooperating agencies in food preservation. Victory days for homemaker groups scheduled 49 counties. All programs of organized groups of rural women adjusted to war problems.

Counties organized for grasshopper control. Increased corn production encouraged by 75 demonstrations, 29 counties on early dent hybrids. Survey made to determine possible soil erosion problems resulting from increased production. Initial work to meet grain storage situation begun; bin construction information and campaign to inform farmers and encourage action organized; survey of all lumber dealers to determine supply available materials for bin construction. Progress made to meet farm labor situation; each farm operator to be reached to determine labor requirements.

Discussion leadership training continued; 7 leader-training schools held.

Rural fire-prevention campaign organized cooperation State fire marshal. Plans provide for reaching every farm with fire-prevention information, cooperation in communities to prevent and fight fires, full publicity press and radio. Volunteer community leaders will aid.

Meetings held at key points during 4-H Mobilization Week stressed work of 4-H members to aid war effort, encouraged increased membership.

TEXAS (May 1).--To increase amount syrup produced on farms, conferences held with farmers for discussion adapted varieties, land preparation, rate of seeding, cultural methods, fertilizer, and other production factors. Program arranged for fall for instruction in treating the juice and cooking the syrup.

Thirty dairy feeding schools held. Dairy information furnished farmers through monthly talks over State-wide radio chain, and monthly dairy news

letter. Milk production during this February increased 10,000,000 pounds over February 1941. Production hogs to meet State quota stimulated through meetings farm people, a Food-for-Freedom circular, frequent radio talks, articles in State newspapers.

Group conferences on poultry production held 31 counties. 24 group meetings in five districts discussed latest available information on insect control in gardens.

Training schools held each community. Following goals set: Increase number home gardens one-third during spring growing season; follow in June and July with program of seed saving and vegetable preservation; full program of winter vegetable production for southern part of State. Indications are desired production goals will be met. Increase of at least 10,000 acres planted to tomatoes in east Texas.

4-H Club boys collected 1,566 tons scrap iron, 50,875 pounds aluminum, 114,084 pounds waste paper.

Home-management specialist conducted training schools for women in 10 counties with relation to the management of the family income to meet current situation.

Agricultural committee Texas Bankers' Association held all-day conference with extension staff at College Station to determine what they could contribute to the Food-for-Freedom program.

4-H Club boys of Hale and neighboring counties pooled their animals to send solid trainload to Kansas City market, shipment including 308 beef calves, 348 lambs, 72 hogs. Total receipts \$49,000. On the Food-for-Freedom front 4-H members have on feed 9,145 hogs, 3,677 calves, 3,472 lambs.

WYOMING (April 15).--Continued emphasis on increased production needed foods; better nutrition for farm families. Meetings and demonstrations held 10 counties featuring drive for home gardens. Stepping up dairy production and culling ewes for increased wool production advocated. Specialists furnishing information on egg marketing and chick brooding; two counties completed arrangements for marketing eggs cooperatively.

County agents using their offices for registration farm laborers who want work, and farmers and ranchmen needing laborers in counties having no US Employment office.

4-H Mobilization Week observed in counties with appropriate ceremonies. 400 garden outfits for use 4-H garden club members, and 3,000 Victory buttons distributed. Emphasis on how 4-H members may contribute to Nation's defense.

Eight counties report 2,000 tons scrap iron collected.

Bulletins and pamphlets issued and distributed include: In Step With Wartime Needs; Spring Food Planning Hints for the Busy Homemaker; Help Yourself to Health by Eating the Right Food.

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